

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Fig. 1 is objected to, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant amends Fig. 1, as indicated herein, and believes that this amendment obviates the Examiner's objection to Fig. 1.

Also, the Examiner objects to the drawings as allegedly not showing the claimed "external interface unit", as recited in claim 2.¹ In response, Applicant submits that the external interface card 28 shown in Fig. 3 corresponds to the claimed external interface unit.

Claims 1, 3-16, and 18-35 are all the claims pending in the application, claims 2 and 17 having been canceled as indicated herein and new claim 35 having been added. Claims 27-29 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claim 27 is amended, as indicated herein, and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that claims 27-29 are allowed. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9² are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Okumura et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,643,730), hereinafter referred to as Okumura. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Swanstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,790,815), hereinafter referred to as Swanstrom. Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

¹ Claim 2 is amended, as indicated herein, for clarification purposes.

² Applicant believes that the Examiner intended to indicate that claim 9 is also rejected over Okumura even though the Examiner did not include claim 9 in the list of rejected claims on page 4 of the Office Action. The Examiner does, however, address claim 9 on page 5 of the Office Action.

103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Okumura. Claims 5, 8, 20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swanstrom.

§ 112, second paragraph, Rejections – Claims 1-34

Claims 1-34 are rejected under § 112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, on page 3 of the present Office Action, the Examiner states:

...the essential structural cooperative relationship(s) between elements recited in the claims such as “a local controller” and “local processor” (claim 1) have been omitted, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. Further, claim 1 is ambiguously constructed in view of the originally filed specification and Fig. 3. It is unclear what may be the so-called “local controller.” It appears that both the “local controller” and “local processor” are both directed to element (25) shown in Fig. 3.

In response, Applicant submits that the essential cooperative relationship between the local processor and the local controller is set forth in claim 1. For example, on lines 7-8 of claim 1, it is described that the claimed local processor is controlled by the local controller, inter alia. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the essential relationships between the local controller and the local processor have NOT been omitted.

Further, with respect to claim 1, contrary to the Examiner’s belief, Applicant submits that element 25 in Fig. 3 does not necessarily represent both the local controller and local processor. For example, the claimed local processor may be represented by local I/O unit 27. *See page 9, lines 10-14 and Fig. 3.*

Applicant believe that the rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are obviated at least based on the foregoing arguments.

With respect to claims 10-15, the Examiner also alleges that the essential structural cooperative relationship(s) between elements recited in these claims have been omitted. In response, Applicant submits that the essential relationships between the elements in claims 10-15 are recited in these claims. However, since the Examiner did not point out specific problems with the claims, Applicant does not know exactly what the Examiner objects to. If the Examiner maintains his rejections of claims 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify the specific recitations that are objected to.

Claims 16-34 are rejected for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1-9. Applicant submits that these claims are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, at least for the same reasons set forth above with respect to the § 112, second paragraph rejections of claims 1-9.

At least based on the foregoing arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1-34.

§ 102(e) Rejections (Okumura) - Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Okumura.

To anticipate a claimed invention, an applied reference must teach each and every limitation of the claimed invention. Here, with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Okumura fails to teach or suggest at least “a local processor programmed to perform functions corresponding to previously-set multimedia support types, and operated by the local controller,”

as recited in claim 1. The Examiner alleges that the CPU 41/flash controller 40 of Okumura satisfies the claimed local processor and its functions. However, neither the CPU 41 nor the flash controller 40 performs the claimed operations of the local processor. Okumura, at col. 11, lines 32-38, only discloses that the CPU provides an access instruction to the flash-card controller 40 when the digital camera 60 or the personal computer 70 issues an access request, thereby performing an access operation with respect to the flash memories 100. Nowhere does Okumura teach or suggest that the CPU 40 or flash-card controller 40 perform functions corresponding to previously set multimedia support types; the CPU 40/flash control 41 of Okumura only performs access related functions with respect to flash memories of memory card 30. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Okumura.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9 are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependencies from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to dependent claims 3 and 4, the Examiner alleges, “the local processor encodes or decodes an audio [video in claim 4] signal (all PCs must support audio/video signal and all flash memory cards support audio/video format) to or from decoder (50).” In response, Applicant submits that Okumura only discloses that decoder 50 decodes chip-enable generation signals and generates a chip-enable signal. *See col. 13, lines 23-29 of Okumura*. Nowhere does Okumura even mention at least “wherein the local processor encodes or decodes an audio signal” or “wherein the local processor encodes or decodes a video signal,” as recited in claims 3 and 4, respectively. In fact, nowhere does Okumura even mention either an “audio signal” or “video signal” in its disclosure.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 6, the Examiner simply alleges that Okumura satisfies the limitations of this claim, specifically the limitation, “and the local processor controls the display unit,” without providing support in Okumura for this assertion. Applicant submits, in response, that the CPU 41/flash controller 40, which allegedly correspond to the claimed processor (*see claim 1 arguments*), do NOT control a display unit. The CPU 41/flash controller only perform the functions set forth above in the paragraph discussing claim 1, but they do not perform the functions set forth in claim 6. Therefore, Okumura does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 6.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2-4, 6, 7, and 9 are patentably distinguishable over Okumura.

§ 102(b) Rejections (Swanstrom) - Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 30, and 31

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-19, 21, 22, 24-26, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Swanstrom.

With respect to independent claim 1, this claim is amended, as indicated herein, to incorporate the features of dependent claim 2. Applicant submits that Swanstrom does not teach or suggest at least “wherein the multimedia card is connected to an external interface unit for connecting the local processor to an external device,” as recited in amended claim 1. That is, according to amended claim 1, the multimedia card is inserted into a device (*see preamble of claim 1*) and is connected to an external device via an external interface unit (*see body of claim 1*). The “device” and “external device” as set forth in amended claim 1 are different devices. Nowhere does Swanstrom disclose that a multimedia modular card is inserted into one device and connected to a different external device via an external interface unit, as described in

amended claim 1. Swanstrom only discloses that the multimedia card is associated with a single device (a computer, for example). Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Swanstrom. Applicant submits that independent claim 16, which is amended, as indicated herein, to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 17, is patentable for these same reasons. Claim 10 is also amended, as indicated herein, to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Applicant submits that independent claim 10 is patentable for reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10-15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, and 26 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1, 10, and 16.

With respect to the rejection of claim 9, the Examiner alleges that “it is clear that the term ‘multimedia device’ (142D, for example) used in Swanstrom et al. includes a camera comprising a multimedia card (142, for example).” Applicant amends this claim, as indicated herein, to place it in independent form, and respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and submits that the term “multimedia device” as used in Swanstrom does NOT include a camera comprising a multimedia card. Nowhere does Swanstrom even mention a camera in its disclosure. Therefore, at least because Swanstrom fails to even mention a camera in its disclosure, and because Swanstrom only mentions a “personal computer” as a multimedia device, Applicant submits that it is NOT “clear” that the multimedia device of Swanstrom includes a camera, and accordingly claim 9 is patentable over Swanstrom. Applicant submits that amended claim 24 is patentable for these same reasons.

With respect to claims 30 and 31, the Examiner alleges that, in Swanstrom:

...the transferring device (master) essentially acts as a PCI bus master in setting up the multimedia transfer. The transferring device may first be required to arbitrate for control of the PCI bus. Once the transfer has been set up on the PCI bus, the transferring device performs the data transfer on the multimedia bus to the receiving or target device (slave). Also, once the transfer has been set up on the PCI bus, then the PCI bus is free for other types of transfers.

In response, first, Applicant is not quite sure which components of Swanstrom the Examiner is applying against alleged corresponding components of the claimed invention. Further, assuming the Examiner is alleging that one of the modular cards of Swanstrom performs a transferring operation, Applicant submits that nowhere does Swanstrom teach or suggest that one modular card performs a master function for controlling another multimedia modular card, as described in claim 30, or performs a slave function to be controlled by another multimedia modular card, as described in claim 31. That is, nowhere does Swanstrom disclose the relationships of control that are described in each of claims 30 and 31.

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24-26, 30, and 31 are patentably distinguishable over Swanstrom.

§ 103(a) Rejection (Okumura) - Claim 5

Claim 5 is rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 9-10 of the present Office Action. In response, first, Applicant submits that claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over Okumura at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner has taken Official Notice that Bluetooth for wireless protocol is allegedly old and well-known; and selecting Bluetooth for Okumura for a wireless communication between devices allegedly only involves ordinary skill in the art. In response, Applicant submits that the

Examiner has made extremely liberal use of the concept of "Official Notice." As the Examiner is no doubt aware, it is impermissible to rely upon Official Notice at the point of novelty of the claimed invention. Accordingly, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2144.03, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite references that support the assertions set forth with respect to the rejection of claim 5 over Okumura.

§ 103(a) Rejection (Okumura) - Claim 8

Claim 8 is rejected for the reasons set forth on page 10 of the present Office Action. In response, first, Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over Okumura at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1. Further, Applicant notes that the Examiner has taken Official Notice that a USB protocol for multimedia cards is old and well-known; and selecting USB protocol for Okumura's multimedia cards allegedly only involves ordinary skill in the art. As indicated above, it is impermissible to rely upon Official Notice at the point of novelty of the claimed invention. Accordingly, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2144.03, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite references that support the assertions set forth with respect to the rejection of claim 8 over Okumura.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Swanstrom) - Claims 5 and 20

Claims 5 and 20 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 10-11 of the present Office Action.

In response, first, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 20 are patentably distinguishable over Swanstrom at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 16.

Similar to the rejection of claim 5 over Okumura, the Examiner has taken Official Notice that Bluetooth for wireless protocol is allegedly old and well-known; and selecting Bluetooth for Okumura for a wireless communication between devices allegedly only involves ordinary skill in the art. In response, as similarly discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite references that support the assertions set forth with respect to the rejections of claims 5 and 20 over Swanstrom.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Swanstrom) - Claims 8 and 23

Claims 8 and 23 are rejected for the reasons set forth on page 11 of the present Office Action.

In response, first, Applicant submits that claims 8 and 23 are patentably distinguishable over Okumura at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 16.

Similar to the rejection of claim 8 over Okumura, the Examiner has taken Official Notice that a USB protocol for multimedia cards is old and well-known; and selecting USB protocol for Okumura's multimedia cards allegedly only involves ordinary skill in the art. In response, as similarly discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite references that support the assertions set forth with respect to the rejections of claims 8 and 23 over Swanstrom.

Finally, Applicant adds new claim 35 to provide additional scope of protection warranted by the present application. Applicant that new claim 35 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

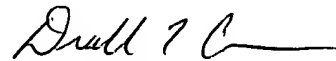
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/938,503

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Diallo T. Crenshaw
Registration No. 52,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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